



## BOX PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ON 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: T. Walton (Chair); R. Bean; R. Bolton; R. Davies;  
D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; S. Parker; S. Roche  
M. Tye; B. Walton; D. Wright  
Unitary Councillors: B. Mathew

Mrs Carey (Clerk)

- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs A. Barton ; J. Clifford ; Cllr D. Walters  
The apologies were accepted

- 3. Absent:** Nil

- 3. Public Question Time:** There were three members of the public present.

Mr Jegasothy, the owner of Londis invited the Parish Council to the opening of the new store on 10<sup>th</sup> January from 9.45-10.00 am. Cllr Walton, as Council Chair, agreed to carry out the formal opening

- 4. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:** The Chair welcomed Cllr Bolton to his first meeting since his co-option.

He reported that more Councillors had signed up to the gov.uk email addresses

- 5. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed and signed as being a true record.

- 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

**Climate Strategy Working Group:** Cllr H. Parker reported that there would be a meeting in January to discuss the Great Green Week in June next year

- 7. Committees:**

- i. **Playing Fields Management:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were submitted and agreed. Cllr Bean had some issues with the wording of the Minutes but these should be addressed at the next Committee meeting

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation from Ashley Rich in the sum of £749 +vat for retaining work to the path in the Allotments be accepted with the work being carried out next March.

It was **resolved** by 12 votes in favour and one abstention that that the quotation from Ashley Rich in the sum of £6481.42 + vat for the work to the path in the Lovar Garden be accepted with the shortfall in budget to be taken from the earmarked reserves

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Mill Lane hedge is cut annually

It was **resolved** by 11 votes in favour, one against and one abstention that the charges for use of the Playing Fields for 2024/25 be accepted.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the request for a small part of the Recreation Ground be used as a Soul Space on a Wednesday on a weekly basis from Lent next year, to include the erection of a Prayer Tent

- ii. **Finance & Governance Committee:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were submitted and agreed.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the Parish Council subscribes to software for parishioners to sign up by email to enable copies of surveys, newsletters etc to be circulated.

It was **resolved** by eleven votes in favour, one against and one abstention that the budget be accepted and that the Precept for 2024/25 is set at **£199547** which would give a Band D charge of £112.46, an increase of £11.74 (11.66%) on last year

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation from MS Amlin Insurance SE for the motor policy in the sum of £831.89 be accepted.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the draft Capital Asset Strategy be adopted. All Committees to use this to look at the assets to draw up a list of when they would need to be replaced etc.

- iii. **Planning & Conservation Committee:** The Minutes of the Meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were submitted and agreed.

It was **resolved** unanimously that the quotation for scaffolding at the Blind House in the sum of £740 be accepted.

The Clerk had contacted Historic England for permission to carry out the additional work.

- iv. **Box Hill & Rudloe Open Spaces Committee:** The Meeting scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December had been cancelled

**8. Urgent Correspondence:**

**Campfest 2024:** Request received from Box C of E School for the Campfest to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This was agreed unanimously.

**9. Items for discussion:**

**Challenging interactions with parishioners:** A draft policy had been circulated which will be discussed at the next Finance & Governance meeting. There was a discussion as to whether the Councillors' mobile phone numbers should be on the website. Clerk to clarify this with WALC

**10. Accounts for payment:** The following accounts were agreed for payment

<u>Cheques</u>			
Wiltshire Council	-	Planning fee Tractor shed	117.00
<u>BACS</u>			
Road and Traffic Management	-	repainting lines in Car Park	2125.00
Glasdon UK Ltd	-	Seat	1118.36
Clear Insurance Management	-	Motor insurance renewal	831.89
Box Preschol Playgroup	-	Grant	500.00
Tree Parts Ltd	-	Bracing Lime Tree	3000.00

**11. Statement of balances**

**Lloyds**

Current Account	£ 27266.61
High Interest account	<u>55972.42</u>
	£ 83439.03
Less payments to go out	<u>6253.00</u>
Working balance	<b>£ 77186.03</b>

Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 45000.00
<b>Balance in Lloyds</b>	<b><u>122186.03</u></b>

Held in <b>BIBS</b>	<b>£ 82203.81</b>
Held in <b>Nationwide</b>	<b><u>£ 56654.16</u></b>
	<b>£ 138857.97</b>

**12. Chairman's Diary, Representatives' reports and report from County**

**Councillors:**

Cllr B. Mathew reported he would be writing again to Perry Holmes, Wiltshire Council to obtain clarification on insurance regarding the Community Resilience Volunteers; Flood Wardens; Litter picking volunteers and Speed watch volunteers

Cllr Wright stated that he had been informed that Keep Britain Tidy would insure litter picking groups but there were several conditions associated with this. Cllr Bolton reported that at a recent meeting it had been stated by Wiltshire Council that in the event of flooding some would be needed to manage the traffic eg Parish Stewards

Cllr Mathew reported that the scheduled resurfacing of the A4 from the Wharf to the Traffic lights would take place overnight from 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**13. Items of report and future Agenda items:**

Cllr Bean stated that he was concerned that there had not been a full discussion on the budget as the Councillors had only had six days notice of this. He was concerned about some of the intended expenditure.

The process for drawing up the budget was explained and it was agreed that this could be put on the Agenda for a future Finance & Governance meeting.

It was asked if the Parish Steward could clear the leaves from outside the Hermitage.

Cllr Davies stated that he would be putting the H&S issues relating to the Car Park on the Agenda for the next Highways meeting.

There will be a drop in surgery in the Pavilion on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 8.45 am to 9.45 am

Cllr Ingledew reported that he had attended a meeting of the Selwyn Hall Management Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December. He would report this at the Highways Committee meeting.

*Meeting closed at 7.25 pm*

**Chair**